GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6055
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
PROPER UTILISATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the launching of a large number of poverty alleviation programme, the number of poors in rural areas have been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and further steps taken in this direction.?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a)&(b): As per estimates of the Planning Commission, the number of persons below poverty line has declined from 261.29 million in 1973-74 to 244.03 million in 1993-94 despite increase in population. In percentage terms, the number of poor in rural areas declined from 56.44% in 1973-74 to 37.27% in 1993-94.

(c): The Ministry of Rural Development has restructuredthe poverty alleviation schemes from 1.04.1999 to effect further reduction in the number of persons below poverty line.